

# National Catholic Theatre Conference

## PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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U. S.

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ENCLOSURE: BISHOP SHEIL DRAMA AWARD

### TYPEWRITERS D.S.C.

We mean down stage centre, of course, for the Bishop Sheil Play Writing Contest is on.

The enclosed announcement is intended for your bulletin board. If you can use more than one, please let us know. The winning play won't be contrived the eve of April 30; encourage your playwrights to do their plotting now. There are no restricting qualifications on authors. New playwrights and experienced hunt-and-peckers should be prompted to submit scripts.

The aim of the award is a fine play - one which you and each of us will hanker to produce, and one which in production will project Catholic philosophy through the lens of dramatic art. The final play can be the most important contribution made by the Conference to date. Will you lend your help?

### REGIONAL CHAIRMEN

The strengthening of regional activity and its ultimate goal diocesan activity, was earnestly discussed at Chicago. The first move to implement that discussion has been the establishment of seven broad regions in the United States and the appointment of a Chairman for each. The Executive Board is happy to announce the following appointments:

In New England Sister Maria Ancilla, director of Queen's Company, St. Joseph College, West Hartford, will serve as Regional Chairman. The Middle Atlantic Region, comprising New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, will be headed by Miss Helen Feeney, Director, Carroll Club, Inc. New York. Rev. R. E. O'Kane, former NCTC Board Member and Moderator of the Catholic Theatre Guild, Richmond, is named Chairman of the South Atlantic Region, including Maryland, Delaware, West (cont. p. 2)

## REGIONAL CHAIRMEN

Virginia, District of Columbia, Virginia with boundaries to the south open for expansion. An East Central Region, comprising Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, will be headed by Fred Karem, director of The Catholic Theatre Guild of Louisville, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana and North Dakota will be considered the Central Region, and Miss Therese Marie Cuny, present Board Member, has accepted the heavy task of administering this district which is heavily studded with Conference members. Mrs. L. G. Bujarski of Immaculate Heart Junior College, Wichita, and long the key to successful Wichita Diocesan meetings, will chair the West Central Region which includes South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. The West Coast Region is headed by Joseph F. Rice, director of Los Angeles Theatre Unit and The Jongleurs, Immaculate Heart College. Mr. Rice will spur activity in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Arizona and Nevada.

A separate region comprising all Canada is also to be established and a Chairman named.

If you can suggest ways and means of developing regional projects, the Chairman of your territory will be encouraged by your interest in his problem.

## INTERESTING PASTS

The constitutional provision that new groups shall accompany membership application with a statement of past activities adds interesting history to Conference mail these days.

At Saint Scholastica, Chicago, Dramatics takes over the English period once a week throughout the four high school years. By senior year, students are ready for intelligent round table discussion of current plays and pictures, with occasional script writing.

At St. Theresa Academy, East St. Louis, Sister Mary Pius, Ad.PP.S., reports attention concentrated on a musical program for Christmas and an annual spring operetta including a double cast of approximately 300 students. This year the Academy Thespians will do a play a month.

More than one hundred producing group members now share your interest in the Conference.

## PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

Sharing the spotlight at Chicago with regional organization was the need of publicity for the Conference. While accepting Courtenay Savage's offer to serve as General Publicity Chairman and relying on him for the most effective release and placement of material, the Board has recognized the want of a committee to originate publicity.

Upon responsibility of the Chairman, the Board consenting, the following appointments have been made to fill that need: Director of Publicity and Active Chairman - Margaret Heslin, New York; for the Community Level - Genevieve Sullivan Garzero, Catholic Theatre Guild, San Francisco; College Level - Sister M. Gregory, O.P., Rosary College; High School Level - Sister M. Honora, O.P., St. Catherine's High School; as Special Members - Rev. K. G. Schroeder (Editor, Bulletin), Dubuque; Rev. G. V. Hartke, O.P., Catholic University; Lenore Marshall, Catholic Theatre of Detroit.

Mr. Savage remains Chairman for General Publicity and Honorary Chairman of this Committee.

## CONFERENCE REPORTERS

With Therese Cuny devoting all spare time to Executive Board mail ballots and plans for the Central Region, her task of Conference reporter for the Chicago area has passed to the capable secretary of Rosary's Grex Guild, Miss Inez Kuipers.

Members in this district can add spice to Miss Kuipers willingly assumed assignment by sending their news items for the Calendar to her.

Miss Leila Andrews is lightening Sister Xavier Marie's load of teaching and directing by reporting for the Mount Players, College of Mount St. Joseph-on-the-Ohio.

## REGRETFULLY

The Play List, which we hoped to have in the mail by the first of November, is not ready. Mimeographing and other final details will be accomplished as soon as the press of urgent day to day business relaxes.

One Victory Bond performance during the last Victory Loan Drive (Oct. 29- Dec. 8) is the plea of the National Community Theatre War Bond Advisory Committee.

# The National Catholic Theatre Conference

ANNOUNCES THE FIRST ANNUAL

## Bishop Sheil Drama Award

### FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS

For the new play, thoroughly consistent with Catholic thought, which shall be adjudged worthy of the award under the following rules of competition:

1. The contest is open to any playwright who mails an entry from the United States or Canada with the exception of officials in charge of the competition.

2. The play shall be full-length and in English. It may be any type, serious or light, including the play with music and the play for children.

It shall be unpublished and the exclusive property of the author. Adaptations from non-dramatic sources and from foreign plays (provided that originality transcends mere translation) may be submitted, but they must be accompanied by a statement of indebtedness and (if based upon any currently copyrighted work) by a proper authorization from the owner to dramatize and grant production rights.

3. All manuscripts must be typed on one side of the paper only, and the sheets bound together and numbered. The top page shall be clearly marked with title and type of play and with author's name and address.

Manuscripts shall be postmarked not later than May 1, 1946. The decision will be announced not later than September 1, 1946.

The author retains full rights to his manuscript. Although the National Catholic Theatre Conference cannot assume responsibility for lost manuscripts, exceptional care will be exercised in the handling of entries. All manuscripts will be returned at the completion of the competition. Each manuscript shall be accompanied by a fee of three dollars (\$3.00) which approximates the cost of return postage and of circulating the entries among the judges.

4. The author of the winning play retains full rights to the play, but he agrees to allow producing groups who shall (at the dates concerned) be members of the National Catholic Theatre Conference to produce his winning play at any time between the date of the Award and September 1, 1947. For such production he may require a royalty fee of not more than \$20 for the first performance and \$15 for each succeeding performance.

No secondary award will be granted to non-winning plays, regardless of their quality, but it shall be within the discretion of the National Catholic Theatre Conference to accord publicity and promotion to any meritorious play submitted in the contest, supposing a copy of such play to have been deposited upon invitation in the lending library of the Conference.

The administration of the contest rests with the National Catholic Theatre Conference. The selection of the winning play rests with a panel of judges of national prominence. The decision of the judges is final.

The National Catholic Theatre Conference reserves the right to postpone the award if, in the opinion of the judges, no play eligible for the award is entered upon this invitation.

#### ADDRESS MANUSCRIPTS TO:

Helen Purcell, Secretary,  
National Catholic Theatre Conference,  
316 West 57 Street,  
New York 19, N. Y.

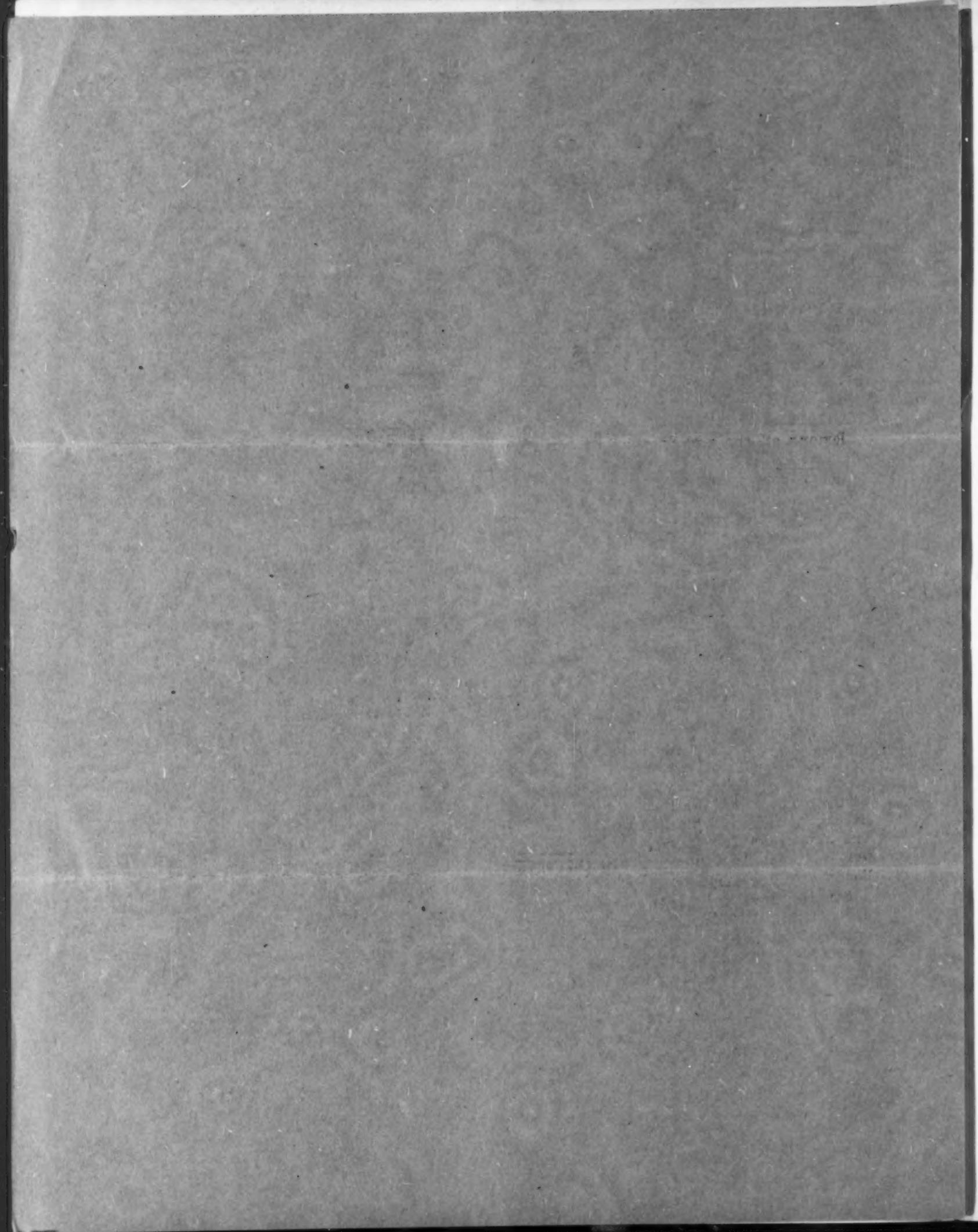
#### JUDGES

**MR. GENE BUCK** (President, Catholic Actors Guild)

**MR. EMMET LAVERY** (Author of *The First Legion*, *Second Spring*, *The Magnificent Yankee*)

**MR. LEO McCAREY** (Author and Director of *Going My Way* and *The Bells of St. Mary's*)

Anna May Smith, Director of Arrangements, Catholic Youth Organization, 31 E. Congress Street,  
Chicago 5, Illinois



One of our newest members, Mount Saint Mary, Kenmore, N.Y., is asking for plays long or short about St. Catherine of Siena. If you know of scripts other than Catherine the Valiant, will you please tell us title, author and publisher - or better still, if you have an extra copy, send it to us for the library.

In response to a query prompted by Queen's Company, West Hartford, Emmet Lavery suggests for a Newman Centenary celebration that girls' colleges (which have done The Dream of Gerontius) might intersperse verse choir reading of Newman's poetry and prayers (see Father O'Connell's "Heart to Heart" collection) with the music that Newman loved - Lead Kindly Light, The Beethoven quartets, etc.

Rumors of the new Stephen Foster play Oh Susanna are somewhat previous. After a California engagement the Ryerson-Clemonts play will come to Broadway, probably in December.

#### LIBRARY ADDITIONS

One act play collections recently added to the library include: Prize Plays by Theodore Johnson (White Iris, Get out of your Cage, The Chimney Corner, I Have a Son, It's Easy to Write a Play); One Act Plays for Today by Griffith and Mersand (The Gooseberry Mandarin, The No 'Count Boy, Movie Mother - a monodrama, Meridian 7-1212 - a radio novelty, Air Raid .. class room exercises are suggested for all); Four Plays for Women and Girls by Hampden (Wish Shop, Hat and Stick, Cats and Kittens, April Shower); One Act Plays for Stage and Study - 8th Series; Woman's Club Playbook (Minerva Moody and 9 other one-acts).

Single plays for girls: Rehearsal, In a Bookshop, It Was a Lovely Meeting, Crime at the Club (may be used as 3 one-acts or full length play). For boys: The Crowsnest, The Gray Overcoat, Ghost of Jerry Bundler. For mixed casts: The Princess Marries the Page, Miss Personality Plus, The Lovely Miracle, The Cherry Bough (Christmas).

Longer Plays: Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come, Suds in Your Eye, Laura, Dark Hours.

Musicals: The Vision of Chartres (for Christmas), Sweetest Girl in Town, Bachelor Belles.

Verso Choir: The Boy with the Cart.

#### THE FRANK FAY CASE

Just in case some people are misled by currently peddled misinformation about the fracas in Actors' Equity Association initiated by Frank Fay (Bulletin, p 37):

1) The newspaper battle was not begun by Fay. The N.Y. Journal American carried a notice of the "Laski Rally" noting that five Equity members brought "greetings" from their casts. Then Fay told the same paper that he was going to find out whether these people really represented their casts.

2) He never brought charges. When he attempted to secure the investigation in open meeting, he was shouted down by a clique led by members of the same party which has put Equity in this unenviable position.

3) The five people brought charges which were made out before he took any action and which were used to gag him.

4) The accusers were "exonerated" during the farce which is supposed to have been his trial or hearing - a new touch in American juridical procedure.

5) Fay was "reprimanded and censured" for nothing contained in the charges but "for conduct prejudicial to Actors' Equity Association" after he had been denied counsel or a court stenographer.

6) His next move is to appeal to the membership, and then to American courts.

Mr. Fay is morally, legally, and technically correct in his entire procedure, and is letting his supporters and the world in general know that the fight against the domineering minority which pretends to speak for all theatres, is on.

#### PRODUCTION NOTES - SEVEN MIRRORS

"Seven Mirrors" is a favorite with Blackfriars' audiences and several professional critics. Special praise goes to Ed Rutyna, former Providence Blackfriar now illustrating Army manuals by day at Ft. Dix, who designed the projection slides. Suiting needs to facilities, Ed painted the background projections to allow for the distortion in a throw three feet from the back wall. Bill Steadman, an overseas veteran, lying on the floor behind the cross-shaped ramp, changes the slides in darkness which blacks out the stage between episodes. Dennis Gurney, director, monitors the show from a sound-proof box in the balcony.

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## CROSS COUNTRY CIRCUIT

New York - Blackfriars' Guild continues run of "Seven Mirrors" through Nov. 18. Washington - Nov. 2--22, except Mondays, at Catholic University Theatre, musical version of "The Liar" by Goldoni. El Paso - Loretto Academy Players present "Song of Bernadette" Nov. 4. Chicago - "Our Town" opens Nov. 5 for a 2-weeks engagement at De Paul University. Louisville - Catholic Theatre Guild offers "Mr. and Mrs. North", Nov. 11-12. Springfield - "Career"Angel", Nov. 12, at Sacred Heart Academy. Dubuque - Loras College Players second production of season is "Ramshackle Inn" Nov. 25. Racine - Nov. 25--27, "Seven Mirrors" by St. Catherine's High School Players. Chicago - Grex Guild of Rosary College introduces "Seven Mirrors" to Chicago audiences the last week of November. Minneapolis - Freshmen, Academy of Holy Angels make their bow in short plays: "Round the Clock with Claire" and "A Modern Cinderella." Boston - Regis College Dramatic Club takes its "Song of Bernadette" to Boston from its Weston home grounds, Dec. 1.

## LAST MONTH

Catholic Theatre Guild of Richmond blew out ten candles on its birthday cake Oct. 10....Blackfriars' Guild, Dayton, played a return engagement of "Murder in a Nunnery", Oct. 12--14, with proceeds donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society.. Seniors at Academy of Holy Angels, Minneapolis, managed the Thespian Initiation Ceremony and presented "Be Seated," a one-act sit-down strike, on Oct. 14. Sister Charitas received \$400. from her Principal for a new scene set....Courtenay Savage and Emmet Lavery were guest speakers at Immaculate Heart College's Book Fair on the 27th. Mr. Savage is again on assignment for Armed Forces Radio Service in LA....An original musical "Singing down the Lane" - boarding school life in dance and song - was presented Oct. 21 by the Glee Club at School of the Brown County Ursulines....On Oct 24 new members were welcomed by Mount Players of College of Mt. St. Joseph on the Ohio, in a solemn candlelight ceremony.....House hunters in Detroit found unexpected humor in Catholic Theatre's opening show "The Great Big Doorstep," Oct. 4--6.

## BROADWAY COMMENTS By Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

Deep Are the Roots - Most interesting of this season's plays - the return of a negro officer to a town in the deep south, and the tragedy of it.

Polonaise - A beautifully mounted musical with a very disappointing book about Kosciusko, which employs Chopin's piano compositions and proves they were not meant for dramatic art.

The Red Mill - Has become a hit in a revival which features Eddie Foy, Jr. and Michael O'Shea as well as Dorothy Stone and her husband Charles Collins. Victor Herbert's songs delight the audience as much as ever.

Therese - Dramatization of one of Zola's earlier novels, a study of remorse of two murderers, in which Dame May Whitty at 82 carries off the honors in spite of Eva Le Gallienne and Victor Jory being members of the cast.

You Touched Me - Very composite comedy written and played in three entirely different styles and moods, with Montgomery Clift appearing for the third time as a returning soldier and Edmund Gwenn delivering broad nautical monologues.

## TODAY

Decca's album of "Song of Bernadette" music is no longer available, nor are new pressings planned, we have learned to our regret and Sister Felician's of Loretto Academy.

But of all wartime shortages the most stringent we have experienced is that of Scotch bagpipes. Unless some willing Conference member steps forward, we know not where you can rent or borrow an authentic pipe for "The Hasty Heart."

Anthony Juliano, Loras College Players Thomas More in "Traitor's Gate" last year, has taken his interest in drama with him to St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore. He's now helping fellow Seminarians find all-male plays. Tony's thesis on Thornton Wilder, submitted at college last spring, would be of interest to the thoughtful director who anticipates a production of "The Skin of Our Teeth."

Father Guyon, O. Praem., of Central Catholic High School, Green Bay, Wisc., is looking forward to the next Bulletin and planning now to save pictures from his first show this year - probably a cowboy musical comic in treatment.

